[Prof. (Mrs.) Asima Chatterjee]

ment. In this context, I would like to suggest that more workshops are to be established, R&D programmes are to be accentuated with new technology. The existing technologies need be upgraded through R&D. Fresher courses for railway employees, particularly for railway officers, should be arranged.

Coming to the catering service, there are a large number of complaints. This must be looked into. The railway stations and the coaches must be kept clean and hygienic condition should be maintained. Drinking water free from pathogens is to be made available at the stations and in the coaches.

Besides, the railway staff are to be provided with more amenities like better housing accommodation, medical care, transport facilities and facilities for education of their children. Lastly, Sir, the casual labourers working for years together are to be made permanent phase-wise.

Sir, while concluding I must say that the overall performance of the Railways is satisfactory and the achievements made so far with the limited resources are praiseworthy.

I, therefore, support the budget without any hesitation. Thank you.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

I. Illegal strike by employees of the Delhi Transport Corporation

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): Sir, I would like to apprise the House about the situation in Delhi created by the strike in Delhi Transport Corporation. Seven trade unions in the Delhi Transport Corporation had on 18-2-1988 and 19-2-1988 served strike notices on the Management that they would go on an indefinite strike w.e.f. 17-3-1988 to press their demands for extending the recommendations of the Fourth Pay Commission to the DTC employees. I regret to state that despite the efforts by Government, the Unions have persisted in their ill-advised move.

As the Honourable Members are aware, there are about seventy-three public sector undertakings having Central Government's D.A. pattern for their employees. DTC is one of them. On the writ petition filed by some unions belonging to this category of public sector undertakings, the Supreme Court had directed the Government to appoint a Committee to go into the question of pay-scales and related terms and conditions of employee of all these public sector undertakings. Accordingly, the Government has on 14-3-1986 appointed a High Power Pay Committee. This Committee under Justice Ranganath Misra is seized of the matter. Two Unions of the DTC also filed writ petitions before the Supreme Court and the Supreme Court in its Order dated 13-10-1987 observed that they are tentatively of the view that the employees of DTC are covered by the reference made to the High Power Pay Committee and that the petitioners should do well to appear before the Committee to represent their case, I.E. they were entitled to special treatment in view of the historical facts including an assurance earlier held out by the Government to the petitioners. The Supreme Court in their order dated 11-3-1988 has also directed that 20 per cent of basic pay may be given as interim relief to the employees of DTC subject to final adjustment and withdrawal of the strike. The dispute is under conciliation. As the House may be aware, the Delhi Transport Corporation has also been notified as an essential service under the ESMA. Therefore, any strike in DTC is illegal. Despite the above developments and despite the pronouncements of the highest court of law in the country referred to above, some unions of the DTC employees

have persisted in their demand for making applicable to them the Fourth Pay Commission's recommendations and have started an indefinite strike from today.

The Delhi Transport Corporation in a public utility service and it carries about 50 lakh passengers every day in the city of Delhi. Its functioning is essential for the maintenance of normal life in the city. Government were hoping that the trade unions who have given the strike notice will realise the crucial importance of the Corporation to the citizens of the city and would find their way to desist from strike move. I may also bring to the notice of the House that a number of examinations in schools are scheduled during the period of the strike and the strike, either by design or accident, is timed in such a way as to cause maximum degree of inconvenience and damage to the student community. I would like to assure the House that the DTC Management and the Government have taken necessary steps to face the situation created by the strike and alternate arrangements for dealing with the strike situation are already in operation and we hope to increase the level of bus services during the next few days. I would also like to take this opportunity to reiterate Government's resolve to deal firmly with any violence or acts of intimidiation by those supportng the strike. The strike is unjustified; it is also illegal and we intend to deal with it firmly. The Government is also considering necessary steps for reorganisation of the present system with a view to giving to the citizens of Delhi safe and efficient transport services. I am sure that Government will have the support of the people of Delhi and of this House in their resolve to meet the strike situation.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Hon'ble Members, the Prime Minister is going to make a statement at 3.30 P.M. regarding launching of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite—IRS-IA. As such I request the Members that pointed clarifications may be sought from the Minister for two minutes each. That is my request.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH (West Bengal): Was 3-30 decided only to enforce a shorter discussion on this issue?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab): Sir, why should we always presume like that?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Why are you presuming like this? I am requesting you.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: What prevented you from keeping it at 4 o'clock? Mr. Vice-Chairman, when he says so, that is why I am asking it, because the question is that DTC buses are off the road. It is good that the Minister has made a statement today itself. Now we have a right to seek clarifications and while seeking clarifications to make certain submissions also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I never said that you don't do so. What I requested was...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Keeping that in view, why 3.30 was decided to preempt our discussion on this to prompt our discussion on this statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Not at all. Why are you presuming all these things? In the Lok Sabha, he is making a statement and after that he will come here.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: It could easily have been decided to have it at 4 o'clock.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I have only requested you to ask pointed clarifications and restrict yourself to two minutes. What is wrong there?

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE (Nominated): May I know if the Remote Sensing Satellite has been launched successfully?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): That I cannot say.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): Otherwise why should he make a statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Shri Pramod Mahajan.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, my name is first. All right you carry on.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन (महाराष्ट्र): उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सब से पहले मैं आप से यह प्रार्थना करूंगा कि समय का जो बंधन आप ने रखा है, तो इस के लिये और ज्यादा समय दिया जाये। यह बड़ा महत्व का प्रश्न है। जिस प्रकार का वक्तव्य जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री की ओर से आया है यह अपने आप में सरकार के मजदूर विरोधी रवैये को स्पष्ट करता है। यह मजदूरों का कदम अविवेकहीन है या अचानक हुआ है यह सरासर एक गलत बात है। गत दो वर्षों तक मजदूरों ने अपने शान्तिपूर्ण धरना, भूख हड़ताल, एक दिन की सांकेतिक हड़ताल के बाद भी सरकार के बंद कानों तक अपनी आवाज पहुंचाने में जबसे वे सफलता नहीं प्राप्त कर सके तो उस के पश्चात् मजदूरों ने 1 मार्च को अनिश्चित हड़ताल का अंतिम अस्त्र प्रयोग में लाने का निर्णय किया तो मंत्रालय के सचिव ने उन को 15 मार्च तक रुकने को कहा। वे इस पर रुक गये और अंत में सरकार जब किसी प्रकार भी सुनने की स्थिति में नहीं है इस निर्णय पर जब मजदूर आये तो विवेकहीनता से नहीं, विवेकपूर्ण रीति से और दुखी हृदय से, जनता के कष्टों को ध्यान में रखते हुए भी सरकार की हठधर्मी के विरोध में उन्होंने इस प्रकार की अनिश्चित कालीन हड़ताल का निर्णय लिया है और इस लिये इस के खिलाफ कल से एक हजार लोगों को पकड़ लेना, मजदूर नेताओं को बंद करना, आदि इस प्रकार के कदम उठाने को अगर सरकार प्रयास करेगी तो मुझे नहीं लगता कि दिल्ली की जनता और सदन इस का समर्थन करेगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, सब से पहले झगड़ा इस एक प्रमुख बात का है कि यह मजदूर यह कहते हैं कि उन्हें केन्द्र का कर्मचारी मान कर चतुर्थ वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों का पात्र माना जाये। दिल्ली परिवहन निगम यह कहता है कि वह सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के कर्मचारी हैं। वैसे तो अपने देश में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र और सरकारी क्षेत्र का निर्णय तो सरकार की एक आज्ञा से होना है। कल कोई व्यक्ति दिल्ली टेलीफोन्स में इंजीनियर है तो वह सरकारी होता है और अचानक दूसरे दिन अगर उस को महानगर टेलीफोन निगम बना दिया जाये तो वह तुरन्त सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र में चला जाता है। इस का कोई नियम हमारे यहां नहीं है। लेकिन जहां तक दिल्ली परिवहन निगम के निर्माण का सवाल है यह परिवहन निगम एक रात में तैयार नहीं हुआ। प्रथम जो वेतन आयोग बना था उस की सिफारिशें उन पर लागू हुई। द्वितीय वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशें उन पर लागू हुई। तृतीय वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशें उन पर लागू हुई। जब तीन वेतन आयोगों की सिफारिशें उन पर लागू हो सकती हैं तो चौथे वेतन आयोग में ऐसी क्या विशेषता है कि जिस के कारण चौथे वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशें उन मजदूरों के लिये उचित नहीं ठहरती, या लागू नहीं की जा सकती। और इस लिये मैं मंत्री महोदय से पहले तो यह जानना चाहूंगा कि तीन वेतन आयोगों की सिफारिशों के पात्र होने के बाद अचानक दिल्ली परिवहन निगम के कर्मचारियों में ऐसी क्या कमी आ गयी जिस के कारण उन्हें चौथी बार माना नहीं जा सकता? यह भी झूठ है कि सरकार ने माना नहीं है। मैं आप की जानकारी के के लिये दिल्ली के उप महाप्रबंधक श्री वाई० पी० अक्खड़ का एक वाक्य जो उन्होंने कर्मचारियों को लिखित रूप में दिया है, वह पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहूंगा। यह पत्र है 15-9-83 का।

"At the very outset it is clarified that there is absolutely no in-

tention to delink Delhi Transport Corporation from the Central Government pay structure and dearness allowance pattern arbitrarily or unilaterally. That is why the revised scales of Central Government DA rates have been retained."

Further:

"It is also clarified that if the Fourth Pay Commission grants any further interim relief of benefit before the final report, such benefit will be available to DTC employees."

श्रीमन्, यह जो वाई० पी० अखबड़ हैं उप महाप्रबंधक, इस में वह स्वयं कहते हैं कि उन पर चतुर्थ वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशें लागू होंगी। दूसरा पत्र ठाकुर दास गुप्त, अतिरिक्त महा प्रबंधक का है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि चतुर्थ वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों को ध्यान में रखा जाएगा और इसके अनुसार ही कर्मचारियों को सहायता मिलेगी।

श्रीमन्, यही नहीं, कर्मचारियों का तो यह दावा है कि हरियाणा चुनाव के एक हफ्ते पहले 11 जून, 1987 को स्वर्ग राजेश पायलेट जी ने यह घोषित किया था कि चतुर्थ वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशें इन पर लागू होंगी यह मजदूरों का दावा है और अगर यह सच है तो वे बेचारे यह समझ नहीं पाए कि हरियाणा चुनाव के पहले यह क्यों कहा गया जब कि उनका हरियाणा चुनाव से संबंध नहीं था अगर यह सच है तो 11 जून को मंत्री महोदय ने इस प्रकार का आश्वासन दिल्ली परिवहन निगम के लोगों को दिया है, उस अश्वासन के पीछे मुझे लगता है कि...

(व्यवधान)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Before he proceeds further on this, I may tell you that it is totally wrong. I am interrupting him because some other Member also might refer to this. It is totally wrong and baseless. I have never told any one. I have never given an assurance. Nor has such an assurance been given by any official since I have become Minister.

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : गरुखंड और गुप्ता जी के बारे में भी आप यही कह रहे हैं ?

श्री राजेश पायलट : उसका जवाब दूंगा **(समय की घंटी)**

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : मध्यप्रदेश दिल्ली में ऐसेम्बली नहीं है, पार्लियामेंट में भी अगर दिल्ली की बातें नहीं होंगी तो कहां होंगी ?

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : होंगी. मैं इसलिए कहता हूं कि आपको बोलते हुए 8 मिनट हो गए।

श्री जदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : बिहार जिन के पास पूरी जानकारी है उनको समय देना ही होगा।

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : जिस उच्चतम न्यायालय की बात मंत्री जी कर रहे हैं उन के वक्तव्य में यह कहा गया है कि ऐतिहासिक कारणों से वे विशेष सुविधाएं प्राप्त करने के हकदार हैं यह मैं स्टेटमेंट से पढ़ रहा हूं जिसमें सरकार दूसरा पहले पिटीशनरों को दिए गए आश्वासन भी शामिल हैं। इसलिए ऐतिहासिक कारण ये हैं कि पहले तीन आयोगों की सिफारिशें लगातार डी०टी०सी० के कर्मचारियों पर लागू की गई हैं और ऐतिहासिक दृष्टि से चौथी भी लागू करना उनके लिए अत्यावश्यक है लेकिन मंत्री महोदय, न्यायालय को उद्धृत करते हुए इन ऐतिहासिक कारणों की जिम्मेदारी नहीं ले रहे हैं उन्होंने यह कहा है कि सरकार ने जो आश्वासन दिए हैं उनके अनुसार ही उन्हें ध्यान देना चाहिए इसलिए अध्यक्ष जी, मुझे ऐसा लगता है कि कर्मचारियों की जो अन्य मांगे हैं, जैसे दिल्ली परिवहन निगम की बसों का प्राइवेटाइजेशन करना, यहां डेढ़ हजार लोग काम कर रहे हैं, उनके वेतन का या विधवाओं का प्रश्न हैं, उन प्रश्नों के अलावा जो मुख्य प्रश्न है कि दिल्ली परिवहन निगम को ऐतिहासिक रूप में और उसके अधिकारियों और कर्मचारियों को जो तीन वेतन आयोगों की सिफारिशें लागू की गई, उनकी चौथी

[श्री प्रमोद महाजन]

वेतन आयोग की सिफारिशों को लागू करने की जो मांग है, जो कि जायज है, उचित है, उसको सरकार स्वीकार कर ले तो यह समस्या दो मिनट में हल हो सकती है, दिल्ली के नागरिकों के लिए सुविधा उपलब्ध हो सकती है। इसलिए मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि सरकार इस हठधर्मी में न जाए और आज तक किसी भी संस्था ने यूनिलेटरली या आबिट्रेरिली अपनी शर्तें नहीं बदली हैं अगर उनको सार्वजनिक उपक्रम मानना चाहिए तो उनसे बातचीत करनी चाहिए और दोनों को बातचीत करके समस्या का हल ढूंढना चाहिए। इसलिए राजेश पायलट जी से मैं प्रार्थना करूंगा कि यह जो कार्यवाही आपने की है, यह जो कड़वाहट आपने पैदा की है, इससे कड़वाहट और बढ़ेगी और इससे नागरिकों को असुविधा होगी। उनके चौथे वेतन आयोग की मांग को आप मान लें तो दिल्ली के नागरिकों को और डी०टी०सी० के मजदूरों को राहत आप दे सकेंगे, यह मेरा उनसे अनुरोध है।

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, all sections of the people.....

SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL (Punjab): Not about Madras.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: You want to separate Tamil Nadu. In that case I will be the happiest man on Earth. What means I should not speak about Delhi? (*Interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): You always have that idea in your mind.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY: That is always there. Keep quite.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: He only wanted to remind you that you should not bring in Sri Lanka here in D.T.C. strike.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: It is better to live as a free citizen in Tamil Eelam than here. Don't rub me on the wrong side.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Yes, Mr. Gopalsamy, please continue.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, whenever I rise to speak my friends from the other side naturally get disturbed. What can I do?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Nobody is stopping you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: But he takes it in good taste. So we love him.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: There should not be Pavlovian reflex.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): (All are your good friends.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, all sections of the people are seriously affected since yesterday evening. Mostly the Government employees and thousands of people have to walk miles since yesterday evening. They could not reach their homes before 10 O'clock in night. Sir, I do not understand why policemen were brought into the bus depots yesterday evening itself and the employees were thrown out. That means the Government has no faith in the employees. Of course, the INTUC, the Congress Union is also behind this strike because demands are very much genuine. May I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government took shelter under th argument that the DTC was not specifically dealt with by the Pay Commission and it was not brought under the purview of the Fourth Pay Commission? If it is so, is it not the fault of the Government?

Sir, as per the statement of the hon. Minister, it goes like this:

"The Supreme Court in their order dated 11-3-1988 has also di-

rected that 20 per cent of basic pay may be given as interim relief to the employees of DTC subject to final adjustment and withdrawal of the strike. The dispute is under conciliation."

The Minister should clarify this point. May I know from the Minister whether this 20 per cent of the basic pay was accepted or rejected by the employees. If so what was the demand of the employees? Did they ask any more? Did they want to increase the percentage of the basic pay as interim relief? The Minister should clarify this point.

Sir, the Pay Commission recommendations were not applied to all the public sector undertakings but it was availed of by the DTC. So, what is wrong now? May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government will bring the Union leaders to the negotiating table and work out a formula to solve the problem?

Sir, it is very unfortunate that the Government tries to blackmail and threaten the working class, that is, with an iron hand. They want to ruthlessly suppress the DTC employees. Of course, my sympathies go with the affected student community who are appearing for the examinations but the Government has to be blamed. May I know from the hon. Minister, other than ruthless measures, whether the Government will come forward to have a dialogue with the striking Unions and come for a settlement?

[**The Deputy Chairman** in the Chair]

श्री भंवर लाल पंवार (राजस्थान): उपसभापति महोदया, मैं जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री जी के वक्तव्य का समर्थन करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूं मुझे इस सम्बन्ध में बोलने का अवसर दिया गया है इसलिए मैं सदन में यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि हम अब स्वतंत्र भारत के नागरिक की हैसियत से रह रहे हैं और इस बात को दृढ़ता से कहना चाहता हूं इस सदन में कि मैं माननीय सदस्यों के समर्थन की आकांक्षा भी रखता हूं और निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि अब हम स्वतंत्र भारत में निवास कर रहे हैं एवं भारत का विकास करना हमारा प्रथम कर्तव्य है और ब्रिटिश भारत में नहीं रह रहे हैं जहां हड़ताल, बंद उस समय की परिस्थितियों में करना पड़ता था और अब हमें उस मानसिकता को बदलने की आवश्यकता है । जब कि हमें भारत को आगे लाना है ऐसी स्थिति में हमें अब यह हड़ताल, अब यह बंद जैसी बातें हमेशा-हमेशा के लिए दूर करने की आवश्यकता है। और सरकार को बड़ी दृढ़ता के साथ इस स्थिति को झेलना है । इस संबंध में मैं केवल दो तीन क्लेरिफिकेशन माननीय मंत्री जी से करना चाहूंगा । आज प्रातः जब बसें चली तो डी० टी० सी० के पास होल्डर्स को, जो बसों की वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था की गई है उनमें क्या उनसे पैसे चार्ज किये गये हैं और क्या उनको इस बात के लिए बाध्य किया गया कि वे पैसे दें ? इस प्रकार से पास होल्डर्स से जो पैसे लिये गये हैं क्या वे पैसे उन लोगों को वापस कर दिये जायेंगे ? आयन्दा अगले महीने जो पास बनेंगे, क्या उस समय यह राशि एडजेस्ट कर दी जाएगी । दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि हड़ताल का अनुमानित समय आपने निर्धारित किया होगा । क्या उतने समय के लिए आपने पूरी व्यवस्था कर ली है ? क्या आपने इस संबंध में पहले कोई निर्णय ले लिया था । इस हड़ताल के समय में अन्य कर्मचारियों, चाहे आफिस में काम करने वाले क्लर्क हों, कंडक्टर हों या ड्राइवर हों, इनकी वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था के लिए क्या आपने इंतजाम कर लिया है ताकि दिल्ली के लोगों को किसी प्रकार की असुविधा न हो ? क्या ऐसी व्यवस्था का निर्णय आपने ले लिया है या आप अब लेने जा रहे हैं, ये सब बातें मैं जानना चाहता हूं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Dr. Bapu Kaldate. Absent. Shri Gurupadaswamy.

SHRI M. S. GURUPADASWAMY (Karnataka): Madam Deputy Chairman, I wonder why the employees

[Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy]

of the Delhi Transport Corporation have been pushed to a corner where they had to resort to strike. I am told that there was a shift in the decision of the Government sometime back. It was a Government undertaking before and it became a public undertaking sometime back after the Government took the decision. May I know from the Minister, why this was done? The DTC was a Government undertaking for a long time. Why this was converted into a public undertaking? This calls for explanation.

Regarding the strike itself, Madam, I did not like some of the expressions given by the Minister in his statement. For instance he has said:

> "This strike is unjustified; it is also illegal and we intend to deal with it firmly."

I think, when so many employees have been involved in the strike such language from the Minister will not help the situation. To my mind, the language, the attitude by the Government is very authoritarian and borders on despotism. They are our employees—they are serving the country—they are fulfilling the most essential services in Delhi and the Government and the employees have got to go together. The Government's main responsibility should be to keep the employees in good humour. Therefore, I do not understand this kind of language used by the Minister. This will not help the situation. It will not ease the situation or defuse the situation.

Now about the demand. The demand of the employees is to have the benefits of the Fourth Pay Commission. The Minister has not explained to us in the statement what the financial and other impediments which he has to encounter are if he is to extend these benefits to the employees. The point is whether the demand of the employees is reasonable or not keeping in view the rise in prices, particularly the high cost of living in Delhi. The Minister has stated in his statement that the Government appointed a high-power committee on 14-3-1986 under Justice Ranganatha Misra and the matter is pending before it. So, he wants the employees to wait till the report is made available. Till then he would like us to go along with the Court directive that 20 per cent of the basic pay may be given as interim relief to the employees of the DTC. I would like the Minister to be very specific why he wants to wait for the report of the Justice Ranganatha Misra Committee. And is he prepared to accept the Justice Ranganatha Misra Committee report by implication? Therefore, my plea with the Minister is that he should consider the demands of the DTC employees and should not call the strike illegal or unjustifiable but invite them for negotiations, for talks, and arrive at a fair settlement. In the meantime, the House should be told what the implications of the demands of the DTC employees are, if the Fourth Pay Commission report is accepted in toto.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Madam Deputy Chairman, this is a shameless apologia for the anti-working class stance of the Centre Madam, though the statement is intended to be made to prove the Government's sincerity to remove the inconvenience or to help the people of Delhi overcome the inconvenience caused by the strike of the DTC employees, in effect, the attitude which the statement betrays completely runs counter to the Government's so-called intention or sincerity to help the people of Delhi overcome the inconvenience. My colleague, Mr. Gurupadaswamy, has already pointed out the language which has been used by the hon. Minister. I quote: "The Government intend to deal with it firmly". What does it mean? It means that the strike will prolong and thereby, the inconvenience of the people of Delhi will prolong. I pity the other gentleman on that side for his ignorance that even the INTUC

is one of the sponsors of the strike. And even he does not know, the Minister knows, the President of this union is a Member of this House belonging to that side. So, this is not the way to meet the grievances of the employees, as is reflected in this statement. I would have been happy if the Minister of Surface Transport had come forward with a specific proposal for settling the disputes, for meeting the grievances of the employees, thereby creating a situation for withdrawal of the strike because the strike had already begun. Now more inconvenience is caused to the people. So I condemn the attitude of the Government as reflected in the statement. It is grossly anti-worker. May I point out that the statement goes on to say that the employees have gone on strike on certain unjustified demands. But what about the DTC management? The DTC management withdrew the buses from yesterday evening itself. Who was responsible for it? Will the Minister kindly tell us under whose orders the DTC management has withdrawn buses from yesterday evening? The workers did not go on strike yesterday evening. Who is responsible for it? Who is responsible for putting Delhi people to such inconvenience yesterday evening?

My second question is: What action does the Government propose taking against them...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. The honourable Prime Minister is to make a statement now...

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: All right, Madam. Let the honourable Prime Minister make his statement, I don't mind. Please give me my chance to complete my questions after that. I agree to stop now.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER

Launching of Indian Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-IA) from Baikonur, USSR

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI): Madam Deputy Chairman, India's first indigenous Remote Sensing Satellite (IRS-1A) has today been successfully launched from Baikonur Cosmodrome in the Soviet Union. The spacecraft is functioning normally. It is revolving around the earth in a polar orbit once every 103.2 minutes.

After separation from the VOSTOK launcher, the automatic deployment of the satellite's solar panels has been successfully accomplished. They are maintaining the temperature within the stipulated limits.

The satellite is being controlled from the main Spacecraft Control Centre at Bangalore. ISRO ground stations at Lucknow and in Mauritius are also being used in this mission. In addition, at the initial stages of the mission, ground stations of foreign space agencies located in Kenya, the United States and the Federal Republic of Germany are assisting in monitoring the progress of the satellite.

All systems and subsystems of the Indian Remote Sensing Satellite have been designed and fabricated indigenously. IRS-1A weighs 975 kg. and carries two sets of state-of-the-art cameras. One camera will provide imageries with a resolution of 72 metres over a longitudinal strip of 148 k.m. as the spacecraft sweeps over India. The second camera will provide imageries with a resolution of 36 metres over the same area. The spacecraft orbit will be continuously adjusted to ensure that all imageries are taken every day, around 10.25 a.m.

The successful launching of ERS-1A is a major milestone in our remote